Sept 1976

The MESSENGER

THE
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S

Milnrow
&
Littleborough

Price 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY.

SEPTEMBER.

Sun. 5th	11 a.m.	Mr.E. Prince of Oldham
	No Evening Service	
" 12th	11 a.m.	Mrs. M. Nash
	6 p.m.	The Minister
Mon.13th	6.30 p.m.	Pilots and every Monday
Tues.14th	7.30 p.m.	Ladies Guild
Weds.15th	2 p.m.	Young Mums and every Wednesday
	7.30 p.m.	Whist Drive and every Wednesday
	7.30 p.m.	Elders Meeting in the Manse
Fri. 17th	7.30 p.m.	Junior Church Staff Meeting
Sun. 19th	11 a.m. & 6 p.m.	The Minister
	3 p.m.	Cradle Roll Service
Mon. 20th	8 p.m.	Men's Fellowship
Tues.21st	7.30 p.m.	Care Committee in Pennine Room
Thurs.23rd	8 p.m.	"Young Mums'" Committee Meeting at No.4. Humber Road
Mon. 26th	11 a.m.	Mr. Alexander of Royton
	6 p.m.	Mrs. M. Nash
Mon. 27th	8.15 p.m.	Efforts Committee
Tues.28th	7.30 p.m.	Ladies Guild Cttee. in The Manse
Weds.29th	7.30 p.m.	Church Meeting
Thurs.30th	2.30 p.m.	Women's World Day of Prayer in The Manse
Sun.Oct. 3rd.	11 a.m.	and 6 p.m. - The Minister
	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	

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Flowers for the Communion Table.

Sept. 5th.	Miss J. Reed
" 12th.	Mrs. A. Travis
" 19th.	Mrs. D. Bruckshaw
" 26th.	Mrs. D. Brewin

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Such lots of lovely things there are
In this old world of ours --
Grant, Lord, that I may find each day
Of loveliness a store...

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

September

Sun.	5th		No Services
"	12th	10-30am.	Rev.A. Nash Family Communion
Weds.	15th	6.45 pm.	Pilots and every Weds.
Sun.	19th	10-30am.	Mrs.M. Nash
Tues.	21st	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild - - Favourite Records -
Thurs.	23rd	7.30 pm.	Men's Fellowship
Sat.	25th	From 2.30 to 3.30pm. -- Harvest Preparations.	
Sun.	26th	10-30 am. and 6 pm. -Rev.A. Nash Harvest Thanksgiving & Promotion Sunday.	
Mon.	27th	7.30 pm.	Church Meeting
Thurs.	30th	7 p.m.	Ladies Guild Cttee.Meeting at 94, Hare Hill Road

October

Sun.	3rd	10-30am.	Mr.J. Lord.

Harvest Gifts.

Anyone knowing of a child or adult who is ill and who would appreciate a gift from the Harvest please give the name to Mrs.P. Mullen. Thanks.

Organist/Pianist

Sept.	12		Mrs.M. Hill (No evening Service)
"	19		Mrs.E. Cockcroft
"	26	AM.	Mr.A. Clegg
		PM.	
Oct.	3		Mrs.M. Hill

God sees all I do, He hears all I say.
He knows my thoughts too, and my every way.
He always is near by day and by night..
The darkness to Him is just as the light.

Henrietta May Follett

From: THE MANSE.

September, 1976.

My dear friends,

As September comes in it is almost inevitable that we begin to think about and prepare for Harvest Festival. It is an attractive time with many Churches being beautifully decorated, and it is really surprising how very colourful everything is. Somehow there is a spirit of happiness about Harvest which surely springs out of the fact that the essential theme is thanksgiving.

Gratitude is a grace that cries out to be expressed and so the writer of Psalm 107 says:

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good;
For His mercy endures for ever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so".

Harvest is a time when we have opportunity to do just this and to offer to God not only our thanks that once again the earth has provided food and flowers, but also our gratitude for the multitude of other blessings we receive. Let those who have experienced God's mercies "say so".

Harvest is also a time of thinking as well as thanking. Indeed we shall offer our thanks more heartily if we have given some thought to the reasons for thanksgiving. Make a list of "blessings" --

THANK GOD for consciousness. On that hinges all joy and all experience.

THANK HIM for home. Only those who have no home really know how precious home is.

THANK GOD for Jesus Christ and all spiritual blessings.

THANK GOD for opportunities to learn and do; for music and education; for science and the many useful things it has made possible.

The list could become very long I'm sure, especially when we add to it the personal helps and guidances received.

Giving thanks is a happy thing. That's why Harvest is such an attractive and joyful occasion.

Of course we ought not to restrict thanksgiving only to Harvest. Giving thanks each day should bring us great upliftment of the spirit, for we shall be remembering also that God is good and that He works always on our behalf.

Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated at Littleborough on Sunday September 26th and at St. Stephen's, Milnrow, on October 3rd. May I give you a personal invitation to join us with your family and friends at such a happy time.

May God bless you everyone.
Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH.

Thought for the month:-

"Express your joy in singing among yourselves psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, and thank God at all times for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".

Ephesians 5.

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IN LOVING MEMORY.

MRS. EDNA HALL, aged 64 years, of 1, Thistleyfield, on 27th July

DANIEL ROBERT EARNSHAW, aged 2 years, of 11, Equitable Street, on 30th July.

Our Minister conducted both services at Rochdale Crematorium.

We offer our sympathy to the relatives and friends in their great loss.

- The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God-

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Please remember in your prayers ---

Sick folk everywhere - and those who minister to their needs.

Our two Churches - that at all times the witness may be under God's guidance.

Our Pilot Companies and their officers.

Children just starting Play School or School, also those going to a new school, and young people just starting work.

LADIES GUILD

A very happy time was enjoyed by all concerned when our friends from Littleborough joined us on August 3rd. Mrs.E. Starkie provided a musical quiz; Mrs.M. Howarth brought along some picture puzzles (some proved to be puzzlers indeed); and everyone was able to sound our their memory boxes by remembering 'things on a tray' .... The fellowship was grand and we look forward to further visits one to the other. Thank you, Littleborough Ladies, for coming along that evening.

Please note, September 14th is the next Guild night at St. Stephen's (The date has been changed because of holidays). We look forward to seeing you -- come and introduce someone else -- there is always room for new members.

DON'T FORGET.

A COFFEE EVENING to be held at No 24, Ladyhouse Close -- from 7-30 p.m. on Thursday, 23rd September. In aid of C.W.M. Funds.

Everybody welcome.

"GOOD MORNING, MISTER SHEEP".

Alistair Hey reports:

"On Wednesday, 4th August, a loaded coach set off on its journey to Towneley Park and Hall. By the side of the road if a sheep was sighted it was greeted with a cry of "Good morning, Mister Sheep" - even though it was nearing 2 pm. This was supposed to give a surprise to the person who said it, and it worked! Although the weather began cloudy it was quite sunny at the Park.

Towneley Hall is really a museum. There was a knight's helmet, modern sculpture, and an old sewing machine; part of Concorde's engine, a realistic looking badger, a bone shaker bike, and believe it or not, a stuffed white blackbird. After a picnic tea we set off for home from a 'Young Mums' trip enjoyed by everyone".

YOUNG MUMS please note - We re-open on Weds. 15th September -- Holiday slides and snaps show.

FOR YOUR DIARY.

Saturday, November 13th - "UNCOMMON MARKET" -
Stalls of various kinds need manning ---
Volunteers required for many jobs --
Keep the date free - watch for further details.

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If there be some weaker one,
Give me the strength to help him on;
If a blinder soul there be,
Let me guide him nearer Thee.
Make my mortal dreams come true
With the work I try to do;
Clothe with life the weak intent -
Let me be the thing I meant.

John Greenleaf Whittier.

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PILOTS

We are looking forward to a good session starting on Monday, September 13th at 6.30 p.m.

A word of thanks here to the Officers and others who have so willingly given of their time on recent Monday evenings to travel to the swimming baths and back -- also to entertain the 'over 10's' in the Schoolroom.

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Rare quality.

An old Scotswoman named Jean was greatly loved for her rare quality of always saying something good about folk and never saying anything unkind about them.

One day a friend remarked, "Jean, I do believe you'd say a good word for the devil hi[illegible]lf".

"Oh well", replied Jean, "He may not be as good as he ought to be, but he's a real industrious body, for all that!"

AS THEY SEE IT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

Great joy in fellowship was provided for isolated island leaders when the Pacific Conference of Churches met in January 1976 for its assembly which, because of high costs, is now held every five years.

Political issues raised included condemnation of Britain and France for unduly prolonging colonial rule in the New Hebrides and a search for a nuclear free Pacific Zone. The Pacific is a vast area representing tremendous differences in cultural background and variety of Christian experience.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Tonga spoke on "God's will in human values". The Rev. William To Kilala of Papua New Guinea in a paper on Development said, "Manpower in the Churches has been shaped like a machine so that men are not free to develop themselves. If the church becomes a true servant of God in the world, then she must be creative, constructive and revolutionary".

This view was not shared by some participants but one of the great values of the Conference is the stimulation and growth that comes from sharing Christian understanding.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed? Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock? Or do you simply stay away and criticise and knock?
Do you ever go out and visit a member who is sick? Or do you leave the work to just a few, and talk about the "clique"? ..... Come to the services often and help with hand and heart. Don't be just a member, but take an active part. Think this over now, friend, for you know what is right or wrong. Are you an Active Member - or do you just belong?

SILAS STOCKING

The Editor's request concerning Silas K. Hocking has caused quite a few people to clean out their attics and to date ten volumes have been lent or given for him to wade through. Countless others have pointed out that the last of these Victorian masterpieces were despatched to jumble sales some time ago. Many thanks to Miss Tither, Mrs. Clarence and Mr. Munday.

The item also brought to light the fact that Silas' sister was one of Mrs. Nash's day-school teachers, and that the Hocking family had another brother called Joseph who was also an author.

Mrs. Constance Hoyle (from Littleborough) wrote a very nice letter to say that she has "Where duty lies" as a prize for good attendance, and that "Her Benny" moved her to tears. At 81 years of age Mrs. Hoyle finds Hocking a bit old fashioned, however, but enjoys reading Phyllis Bentley's work (e.g. "Inheritance"). Although she cannot get about too well she recalls her 50 years in the Choir and her work in the Primary Department as "happy days". I am sure, Mrs. Hoyle, that others will remember those years under your guidance as happy days as well. Thank you for writing.

NEW VENTURE

There has been a gratifying response to the appeal for volunteers to staff the proposed Youth Club at St. Stephen's. The first meeting of this will be held on Friday October 1st and will be for Young People of 12 plus.

THANK YOU AND WELCOME.

Just a word of thanks to Mr. Al Turner, our retiring Treasurer at Milnrow, for all he did for us. Al, Angela and Zoe have moved to London.

Welcome to Mr. Peter Whitehead who has accepted the Treasureship. Thank you and all good wishes.

" LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU".

"Love one another as I have loved you"
May seem impossible to do -
But if you will try
to trust and believe,
Great are the joys
that you will receive ...
For love make us patient,
understanding and kind.
And we judge with our heart
and not with our mind ...
For as soon as love enters
the heart's opened door,
The faults we once saw
are not there any more.
And the things that seemed wrong
begin to look right
when viewed in the softness
of love's gentle light...
For love works in ways
that are wondrous and strange
And there is nothing in life
that love cannot change,
And all that God promised
will some day come true
When you love one another
the way He loved you.

Helen Steiner Rice.

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CHURCH RED ORATION.

As you know arrangements are already well in hand for the re-decorating of the interior of the Church. A re-decorating fund has been started to meet the cost of this very necessary project.

All gifts for this will be received with thanks and be most acceptable.

Littleborough News.

MARVELLOUSLY WELL DONE.

An uplifting time was had at the first Ladies Guild Rally to be held at Littleborough. About 60 ladies attended from various Churches. The Scripture passages were read by Mrs. Dunwell and Mrs. Marvelley (both first timers at this kind of thing, we understand). Mrs.A. Stott gave the "Roll Call"; Mrs.E. Cockcroft accompanied our singing; and an inspiring message was given by our guest Speaker, Miss Paton Rogerson.

A reminder that our next Guild night is Tuesday, 21st September. You are invited to bring your favourite records for that evening. Please let Mrs. Nash or Mrs. Stott have them by Sun. 19th September the latest. We do not mind whether it is classical or "top of the pops"-- songs or prose, just let us know. Come yourself, bring as many others as you can -- of all ages -- and enjoy a happy evening together.

A big 'thank you' to Mrs. Stott for organising such a happy outing to Southport on August 11. It was indeed an enjoyable occasion - the weather was kind to us -- the food was good -- the companionship admirable, -- and the entertainment on the return trip magnificent.

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HARVEST THANKSGIVING

SUNDAY 24th September - 10.30 am. & 6 pm.
PREACHER: - Rev. A. NASH, B.A.
ORGANIST: - Mr. A. CLEGG

10.30 am. Pageant and Presentation of Promotion Bibles.
6.00 pm. Service of Thanksgiving

---- A welcome awaits you all ----

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PILOTS -- Please Note --
Re-opening date --
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th.
Look forward to seeing you again.

AS OLD AS YOU FIELD.

Once again the weather was very kind to us for the annual picnic at Todmorden Park. About 45 adults and children, including some from Milnrow, enjoyed a very happy time with swimming, rounders and races as part of the hectic programme. Mr. Simpson once again excelled as a fielder, but as the weather was not quite as scorching as last year, managed to keep his shirt on. Needless to say our Minister proved to be 'not so bad' a fielder also, to say nothing of the ladies present.

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Hallowe'en Family Social.

Advance notice for this forthcoming event. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th... Children's Fancy Dress Parade -- All entrants to be on the Hallowe'en Theme!!

See next month's 'Messanger' for more information.

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PANTOMIME.

It has been suggested that we organise a trip to the Pantomime at Oldham. At this time all we know is that the production is "ALADDIN" and the proposed date is Monday, 3rd January, 1977 - 2.30 p.m. Matinee. The cost may be approximately £1.00 adults and 75p children plus cost of transport.

If you wish to go please give your name to Mr. Simpson as soon as possible. A decision will be made depending on response.

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BE WORTHWHILE

You do not need to stride
The earth, or win the public gaze,
To spread a little happiness
In simple secret ways.
A kindly word, a helping hand,
Or just a friendly smile,
All help to smooth another's path
And brighten every mile.

ONE WAY TO GIVE

Would you like to give more to the Church?

Do you have Income Tax Deducted?

..... If so, would you like to covenant your giving to the Church? This is how it works.

You covenant each year	Inland Revenue refunds to Church each year
£10	£4.93
£20	£9.86
£30	£14.78
£50	£24.63

It does not affect the amount you pay, but it does increase our income. See the Treasurer, Mrs. P. Lightfoot, about it now.

ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE

We have just received a grant of £13 from the Congregational and General Insurance Co. to set against our annual premium of £60. Such grants are available to churches because of premiums paid by householders. So if you are thinking about taking out or increasing a house or contents policy ask the Church Treasurer for details of the Congregational and General Scheme.

CARDS AND GIFTS

The Young People's Stall is again selling Christmas Cards and Gifts. If you would like to see the catalogue then contact either Mrs. Kathleen Hill or Mrs. Peggy Lightfoot. We would like the last orders to be in by the end of October at the latest so ask now so that you can pass the catalogue to your friends, relatives and neighbours in good time.

THANK YOU

The Ladies of Littleborough would like to thank those of Milnrow for their welcome and hospitality on August 3rd. It was much appreciated.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Sept. 12	Mr.J. Hill	Mr.J. Lord
" 19	Mr.T.Fielden	Mr.J.Nairn
" 26	Mr.R.Mullen	Mr.F. Beattie
Oct. 3	Mr.D.Harrison	Mr.H. Hill

COMMUNION - ELDERS

Sept. 12	A.M.	Mr.J.Nairn	Mr.J. Lord

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Sept. 12	Mrs. Shackleton
" 19	Mrs. Nairn
" 26	Harvest Thanksgiving
Oct. 3	Mrs. P. Lightfoot

COFFEE ROTA

Sept. 12	Mrs.J. Allison	Beverley Allison
" 19	Mrs.W.Spinks	Mrs.J. Hobbs
" 26	Mrs.R.Mullen	Mrs.L.Mitchell
Oct. 3	Mrs.L.Butterworth	Mrs.A.Merrick

FAMILY READINGS.

Sept. 12	Mrs.B. McCormick - Exodus 3.1-7
	- Promising -
" 19	Mr.D. Harrison - Mark 1.14-20
	- Proclaiming -
" 26	Harvest Thanksgiving
Oct. 3	Mr.Mark Grindrod -Romans 8.14-21
	- Liberation -

If unable to fulfil your duties please find a suitable substitute. Thank you!

Collections for JULY.

4th.	£34.95
11th.	£27.52
18th.	£15.46
25th	£20.57

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW.

Family Church door stewards.

Sept. 5th	Mrs.B.Clarence	Mrs.P. Royle
" 12th	Mrs. M.Holden	Kenneth Holden
" 19th	Mr.J.Harrison	Mr.I. Royle
" 26th	Mrs.A. Collins	Mrs. I. Collins
Oct. 3rd	Mr.G. Buckley	Mr.A. Rae

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ELDERS ROTA

Evening Door Stewards	Duty Elder	Organist/Pianist Evening Worship
Sept. 5. ---	Mr.H.Whitehead	---
" 12. Mr.J. Wild	Mr.D.Munday	Mrs.C.Hey
" 19. Mrs.M.Howarth	Mr.A.Sharples	Mrs.E.Starkie
" 26. Mr.B.Clough	Mrs. Howarth	Mrs.Bradbury
Oct. 3. Mr.A.Sharples	Mr.B.Clough	Mr.A.Clegg

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FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Sept.12	Mrs.J.Cudworth	Mrs.N.Settle
" 19	Mrs.C. Hey	Mrs.M. Mellor
" 26	Miss M.Wood	Mrs. D.Andrew
Oct. 3	Mrs.J.Calow	Mrs.E. Garside

Should you be unable to fulfil your duty would you please find a substitute. Thanks!

BIBLE READINGS for September - Family Church.

Sept.5.	ISAIAH 40: 21-26	-- Mr.J.Wild
" 12.	LUKE 16: 19-21	--Miss M. Wood
" 19.	ACTS 4: 1-4: & 16-18	--- Mrs.N. Settle
" 26.	DEUTERONOMY 26: 1-10	--- Mr.P.Whitehead

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Would you please send items for "The Messenger" to the Editor, Mr. Ian Royle, by the 19th of each month. Thank you!

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